



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/895,869	06/28/2001	Matthijs A. Gates	MS1-906US	5370
69316	7590	08/23/2007	EXAMINER	
MICROSOFT CORPORATION ONE MICROSOFT WAY REDMOND, WA 98052			VENT, JAMIE J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2621	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			08/23/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/895,869

Applicant(s)

GATES ET AL.

Examiner

Jamie Vent

Art Unit

2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23, 25-43, 46 and 47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23, 25-43, 46, 47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 8, 2007 has been entered.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-11 and 37-43 and 46-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vallone et al (US 6,642,939) in view of Browne(WO 92/22983) in further view of Ullman et al (US 6,330,595).

#### **[claim 1]**

In regard to Claim 1, Vallone et al discloses a method comprising:

Art Unit: 2621

- Receiving a data stream encoded using a first encoding format (Figure 1 shows receiving a broadcast data stream that is encoded using various formats as stated in Column 5 Lines 20-25 and Column 8 Lines 10-18);
- Receiving a data stream encoded using a second encoding format (Column 5 Lines 5+ describes the various encoding formats such as analog broadcast streams such as NTSC and PAL that are encoded using QUAM standards; and digital streams such as ATSC, DBS, and DSS that are encoded based on Moving Pictures Experts Group 2 (MPEG2) and MPEG2 Transport standards);
- Demultiplexing the first broadcast data stream while maintaining the encoding format of the broadcast data stream (Column 8 Lines 3-8 describe the demultiplexing of the broadcast data streams that are encoded in MPEG2 and MPEG2 Transport standards);
- Demultiplexing the second broadcast data stream while maintaining the second encoding format of the second broadcast data stream (Column 8 Lines 3-8 describe the demultiplexing of the broadcast data streams with the use of the MPEG2 and MPEG2 Transport standards);
- Storing the first and second broadcast data stream on a storage device in the encoded format (Figure 1 storage device/hard disk drive 105 wherein the broadcast data streams is stored in an MPEG format); and
- Time shifting the first and second broadcast data streams (Column 10 Lines 62+ describes a function of pausing thereby time shifting the

Art Unit: 2621

broadcast data stream); however fails to disclose receiving of a first broadcast data stream and second broadcast data stream in an encoding format and the first and second broadcast data streams use at least in part, the respective first and second encoding formats.

Browne et al discloses a system wherein many different formats are entered into the system, as seen in Figure 1. The various inputs 101a-101h are various format and thereby encoded to allow the system to properly process the data. Additionally, it is taught by Ullman et al various encoding formats are available for processing such as MPEG 1, MPEG 2, MPEG4, and MPEG 7 as described in Column 9 Lines 54+. The various encoding methods provides the set top box system the ability to process any incoming data in an efficient manner among all types of incoming formats, as described in Column 10 Lines 1-29. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the recording system, as disclosed by Vallone et al, and further incorporate a system that receives multiple formats, as disclosed by Browne et al, and further discloses a system that provides a various incoming formats to be processed such as timeshifting, as disclosed by Ullman et al..

**[claims 2 & 3]**

In regard to Claims 2 and 3, Vallone et al discloses the first broadcast data stream is a digital data stream and may utilize any data format (Column 5 Lines 6-11 states that television (TV) input streams are inputted in multiple forms).

**[claim 4]**

Art Unit: 2621

In regard to claim 4, Vallone et al discloses the storing the first broadcast data stream on a storage device includes writing the broadcast data stream to an application programming interface (Figure 13 shows the queue up of programs from the hard disk for writing data to an application program interface).

**[claims 5, 6, & 7]**

In regard to Claims 5, 6, and 7 Vallone et al discloses the method of further comprising retrieving:

- the first broadcast data stream from the storage device (Figure 1 shows the data stream from the storage device);
- the first broadcast data stream simultaneously (Figure 2 shows the data stream being retrieved simultaneously from the media switch); and
- Different portions of the first broadcast data stream simultaneously (Figure 6 shows different portions of the broadcast data stream simultaneously retrieved).

**[claims 8, 9, & 10]**

In regard to Claims 8, 9, and 10 Vallone et al discloses the method wherein the received first broadcast stream is stored on the storage device using:

- Plurality of single temporary files (Figure 9 cache file 918 has group of single temporary files); and
- At least one permanent file (Column 17 Lines 5-8 default preference files that are permanent in the system).

**[claim 11]**

Art Unit: 2621

In regard to Claim 11, Vallone et al discloses that one or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program is executable by a processor to perform the method as recited in Claims 1, (Figure 8 and 9 shows the program logic of the computer program that performs the methods as stated in methods 1, 12, and 32).

**[claim 37]**

In regard to Claim 37, Vallone et al in view of Browne, discloses one or more computer-readable media, as described in Claim 1, and additionally states having a computer readable media stored thereon a computer program (Figures 8 and 9 show the program logic that resides in the CPU seen in Figure 7 element 713) that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to:

- Separate the components of the broadcast data stream encoded using a first encoding format (Column 8 Lines 3-8 describe the demultiplexing of the digital data stream);
- Separate the components of a second broadcast data stream encoded using a second encoding format
- Store the components of the first and second broadcast data stream on a hard disk drive (Figure 1 storage device/hard disk drive 105);
- Receive a request to play back the stored components of the first broadcast data stream (Figure 7 command can be given to media switch regarding playback);;

Art Unit: 2621

- Retrieve the stored components of the first broadcast data stream from the hard disk drive (Column 8 Lines 31-35 states the retrieving of the stored components of the digital data stream);
- Decode the components of the first broadcast stream (Figure 8 shows a decoder for decoding the components of the broadcast stream); and
- Rendering the components of the first broadcast stream (Figure 7 parse 705 and event queue 708 renders the streams for playback control.

**[claims 38 & 39]**

In regard to Claims 38 and 39, Vallone et al discloses one or more computer-readable media wherein one or more processors render the following:

- Components of the broadcast stream includes rendering the components of the broadcast stream in a manner that corresponds to the received playback request (Figure 8); and
- Components of the broadcast stream include rendering multiple copies of the broadcast stream simultaneously (Figure 9).

**[claims 40, 41, & 42]**

In regard to Claims 40, 41, and 42, Vallone et al discloses one or more computer-readable media wherein:

- First Broadcast data stream is a television broadcast (Figure 7 input signal is determined television broadcast through MPEG decoder)
- Separate components of a broadcast data stream include audio data, video data, and Internet Protocol data (Column 8 Lines 6-8 states the



demultiplexing of audio, video and "private data channel streams" which would encompasses internet protocol data)..

**[claim 43]**

In regard to Claim 43, Vallone et al in view of Browne discloses a computer readable media with the additional apparatus comprising:

- A capture module configured to capture a first data stream, wherein the first data stream may be represented by a first data format and the second data stream is represented by a second data format, and wherein the data stream is encoded using an encoding format the second data stream is encoded using a second encoding format (Figure 8 element 801 captures different data formats);
- Data storage module configured to store the captured data stream in the encoded formats (Figure 8 element 804); and
- Rendering module configured to decode the data stream and to render the data streams from the data stored on the data storage module (Figure 8 double arrow between elements 802 and 804).

**[claim 46]**

In regard to Claim 46, Vallone et al discloses the capture module is further configured to separate the components of the data stream and the data storage module is further configured to store each of the separate components of the data stream (Column 9 Lines 20+ describes the storage of the data stream into the hard disk).

**[claim 47]**

Art Unit: 2621

In regard to Claim 47, Vallone et al discloses the data storage module includes at least one hard disk drive (Figure 1).

4. Claims 12-23 and 25-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vallone et al (US 6,642,939) in view of Inuoe et al (5,832,085) in further view of Ullman et al.

**[claim 12]**

In regard to Claim 12, Vallone et al discloses the method comprising:

- Receiving a first digital data stream encoded using a first encoding format (Figure 1 shows receiving a digital data stream that is encoded using various formats as stated in Column 5 Lines 20-25 and Column 8 Lines 10-18);
- Separating components of the first digital data stream (Column 8 Lines 3-8 describe the demultiplexing of the digital data stream);
- Storing the components of the first digital data stream on a storage device wherein the components are stored in the first encoded format (Figure 1 storage device/hard disk);
- Receiving a command to play back the first digital data stream (Figure 7 command can be given to media switch regarding playback);
- Retrieving at least one of the stored components of the first digital data stream from the storage device (Column 8 Lines 31-35 states the retrieving of the stored components of the digital data stream);

Art Unit: 2621

- Decoding the retrieved component (Figure 9 shows a decoder for the retrieve component needed for output of the data stream) and
- Rendering the components of the digital data stream in a manner that corresponds to the received play back command (Figure 7 parse 705 and event queue 708 renders the streams for playback control); however, fails to clearly disclose a receiving a second digital stream encoded using a second encoding format and the first and second broadcast data streams use at least in part, the respective first and second encoding formats.

Vallone et al states that the receiving a second digital stream encoded using two encoding formats of MPEG2 and MPEG transport encoding standards which are two different digital standards. However, if the applicant feels that MPEG standards are not from different digital encoding formats it is clearly stated in Inuoe et al discloses the input of two data streams with two different encoding formats as disclosed in Column 1 Lines 15-44 and Column 3 Lines 10-40 and seen in Figure 1. Thereby allowing the system to process multiple digital encoding formats that allows the system to process various inputs and thereby becoming more versatile for recording. Additionally, it is taught by Ullman et al various encoding formats are available for processing such as MPEG 1, MPEG 2, MPEG4, and MPEG 7 as described in Column 9 Lines 54+. The various encoding methods provides the set top box system the ability to process any incoming data in an efficient manner among all types of incoming formats, as described in Column 10 Lines 1-29. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the recording system as disclosed by

Art Unit: 2621

Vallone et al, and further incorporate a system wherein the system receives two digital encoding streams, as disclosed by Inuoe et al, and further provide various encoding formats for processing of the video streams, as disclosed by Ullman et al.

**[claim 13]**

In regard to Claim 13, Vallone et al discloses a method comprising:

- Receiving a command to pause play back of the digital data stream and halting rendering of the components of the digital data stream in response to the pause command (Column 9 Lines 60-68 describe the pause method and the systems response to the command).

**[claims 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, & 20]**

In regard to Claims 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20, Vallone et al discloses the play back command is: playback command, rewind command, fast forward command, seek command, slow motion play command, skip forward command, and skip backward command (Column 8 Lines 16-17).

**[claim 21]**

In regard to claim 21, Vallone et al discloses the storing the first broadcast data stream on a storage device includes writing the broadcast data stream to an application programming interface (Figure 13 shows the queue up of programs from the hard disk for writing data to an application program interface).

**[claims 22 & 23]**

In regard to Claims 22 and 23 Vallone et al discloses the method wherein the received first broadcast stream is stored on the storage device using:

Art Unit: 2621

- Plurality of single temporary files (Figure 9 cache file 918 has group of single temporary files); and
- At least one permanent file (Column 17 Lines 5-8 default preference files that are permanent in the system).

**[claim 25]**

In regard to Claim 25, Vallone et al discloses the digital data stream can be encoded using any encoding format and can utilize any data format (Column 5 Lines 20-25 and Column 8 Lines 10-18 describe encoding methods of the system).

**[claim 26]**

In regard to Claim 26 Vallone et al discloses the method of further comprising retrieving:

- the first broadcast data stream from the storage device (Figure 1 shows the data stream from the storage device);
- the first broadcast data stream simultaneously (Figure 2 shows the data stream being retrieved simultaneously from the media switch); and
- Different portions of the first broadcast data stream simultaneously (Figure 6 shows different portions of the broadcast data stream simultaneously retrieved).

**[claims 27 & 28]**

In regard to Claims 27 and 28, Vallone et al discloses a method wherein the retrieving the stored components of the digital data stream includes a first device retrieving data associated with a first data stream stored on the storage device and a second device simultaneously retrieving data associated with a second data stream stored on the

Art Unit: 2621

storage device (Column 8 Lines 44-50 describe the method and devices used for retrieving data).

**[claims 29 & 30]**

In regard to Claims 29 and 30, Vallone et al discloses a method wherein separating components of the digital data stream includes demultiplexing video data and audio data and internet protocol data from the digital data stream (Column 8 Lines 6-8 states the demultiplexing of audio, video and "private data channel streams" which would encompasses internet protocol data).

**[claim 32]**

In regard to Claim 32, Vallone et al discloses the method of data streams as stated in claims 12 with the additional limitations of receiving a request to pause rendering of the broadcast data stream in response to the pause request to halt rendering of the broadcast data stream and continuing to store the components of the broadcast data stream on the storage device (Column 9 Lines 60-68 and Column 10 Lines 1-10 states the events that occur when a pause request is received and the storage of the broadcast data stream onto the hard disk drive).

**[claims 33 & 34]**

In regard to Claims 33 and 34, Vallone et al discloses the broadcast data stream is a television broadcast and is digital data stream (Column 5 Lines 6-11 states that television (TV) input streams are inputted in multiple forms).

**[claim 35]**

Art Unit: 2621

In regard to Claim 35, Vallone et al discloses a method comprising of receiving a request to resume rendering of the broadcast data stream and rendering the broadcast data stream based on the request to resume rendering of the broadcast data stream (Figure 27 and element 2707 to resume rendering of the broadcast data stream).

**[claims 33 & 34]**

In regard to Claims 33 and 34, Vallone et al discloses the broadcast data stream is a television broadcast and is digital data stream (Column 5 Lines 6-11 states that television (TV) input streams are inputted in multiple forms).

**[claim 35]**

In regard to Claim 35, Vallone et al discloses a method comprising of receiving a request to resume rendering of the broadcast data stream and rendering the broadcast data stream based on the request to resume rendering of the broadcast data stream (Figure 27 and element 2707 to resume rendering of the broadcast data stream).

**[claim 36]**

In regard to Claim 36, Vallone et al discloses one or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method (Figure 7 shows the computer-readable memory for executing the processing to be performed).

***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 2621

Labeeb et al (US 2003/0093792).

***Contact Information***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jamie Vent whose telephone number is 571-272-7384.

The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on 571-272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jamie Vent



**JOHN MILLER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**